

# 2003 Report of Accomplishments

## Franklin Conservation District

---



### Natural Resource Improvements in 2003 - Summary

- *Implementation of agricultural best management practices prevented an estimated 320,000 pounds of nitrogen from entering the ground water system in Franklin County.*
- *Reducing irrigated agriculture's contribution to high nitrate levels in ground water was the major focus of the Franklin Conservation District's natural resource activities.*
- *More than 5,000 students and other individuals received training through the District's educational programs.*



---

### Mission of the Franklin Conservation District

- *The Franklin Conservation District promotes the conservation and wise use of natural resources by providing technical and financial assistance to landowners.*

---

### Water Quality Implementation

- *Two growers received technical assistance and \$29,515 in financial assistance to convert rill irrigation to more efficient sprinkler irrigation.*
- *Five rill fields covering 136 acres were converted to 2 center pivots and 1 wheelline.*
- *Crop water use charts were published weekly in 2 newspapers during the 2003 growing season.*

---

### Columbia Basin Ground Water Management Area (GWMA)

- *Technical assistance was provided for the GWMA's irrigation water management (IWM) and deep soil sampling programs. \$70,765 in financial assistance was provided to 29 growers to implement IWM on 15,853 acres.*
- *Thirty growers participated in the deep soil sampling program with 238 fields sampled to a depth of 10 feet.*
- *A three-dimensional model of the sub-surface geology was created for the GWMA hydrostratigraphy project. This model assists in the mapping and identification of the areas aquifers and is invaluable for water quality and water quantity planning and implementation activities.*
- *The FCD provided staff for the Water on Wheels (WOW) program. The program was delivered to 169 classes including 261 adults, and 3,905 students.*

---

### Dairy

- *Financial assistance totaling \$66,524 was provided for the installation of 4 waste transfer systems, 1 lined storage pond, and 1 filter strip.*
- *Irrigation water management was implemented on 1,986 acres.*
- *Thirteen dairies with a total of 6,292 acres are covered by dairy nutrient management plans in Franklin County. Two plans have been certified.*

---

### Water Quality Education

- *An education web site was developed and posted on the internet at [www.franklincd.org](http://www.franklincd.org)*
  - *Three fourth grade classes and 5 eighth grade classes for a total of 240 students participated in the Salmon in the Classroom program.*
  - *Three schools were provided training and software to participate in the GIS in the Classroom program. Projects focused on local water quality issues and conservation.*
-

---

### **Ground Water Monitoring**

- *Samples from 187 wells were collected and analyzed for nitrate-nitrogen. This project is part of the Columbia Basin GWMA biennial well sampling program.*
- *An additional 111 wells were sampled and tested for nitrate-nitrogen in 2003 to identify long term trends and temporal variations.*
- *Location data for 54 public water supply wells were collected using a global positioning system under a contract with the Department of Health.*

---

### **Geographic Information System (GIS)**

- *A GIS database was established that creates locational information on 8,281 cultivated fields covering 486,838 acres in the county.*
- *More than 100 GIS maps were prepared for growers and other land managers.*
- *A large scale atlas of the counties' fields was produced for growers, agencies, and businesses to use for agricultural production and environmental planning purposes.*

---

### **Franklin County Water Conservancy Board**

- *Staff support was provided to the Franklin County Water Conservancy Board to facilitate water right transfers and changes.*

---

### **Air Quality**

- *In 2003, the Franklin Conservation District began issuing agricultural burn permits for Franklin County. Technical assistance is provided to help growers comply with the burn permit requirements and to reduce smoke emissions.*

---

### **Remote Sensing**

- *Using satellite imagery and a geographic information system, crops were identified for every field in Franklin County. The crop information is then used to develop a ground water nitrate leaching index which helps focus limited financial and technical assistance funds.*

---

### **Wildlife Habitat**

- *The FCD participated with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in funding the purchase of 12 wildlife watering facilities (guzzlers).*
- *The FCD provided labor and obtained Boy Scout volunteers to assist in a Department of Natural Resources wildlife planting.*

---

### **Washington Conservation Districts assisting land managers with their conservation choices**

